

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /147 W

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R 281500Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7030

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 3119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN KEYNOTES PALESTINIAN
PROBLEM

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS SPEECH TO THE PAASIKIVI SOCIETY
DECEMBER 19 (COPY PREVIOUSLY POUCHED DEPT), PRESIDENT
KEKKONEN UNDERLINED THE PALESTINIAN FACTOR AS THE KEY
TO ANY LASTING SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.
HE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED DEVELOPMENTS IN WHICH FINLAND
HAS PLAYED A PART, SUCH AS CSCE AND SALT, PRAISED
BRANDT'S "OSTPOLITIK", CALLED FOR AN ALL-INCLUSIVE
EUROPEAN APPROACH, AND SUPPORTED DETENTE AND PEACEFUL
COEXISTENCE.

2. THE PALESTINIANS: PRESIDENT KEKKONEN SAID THAT
IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO FIND DURABLE, PEACEFUL
SOLUTION UNTIL JUSTICE IS DONE TO PALESTINIANS,
AND CLAIMED THIS, RATHER THAN QUESTION OF NATIONAL
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BORDERS, TO BE HEART OF CONFLICT. HE AGREED WITH

AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY THAT "IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE EXISTENCE OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS; THEY MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT".

3. THE ISRAELI: WHILE STATING THAT THE FOUNDING AND EXISTENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL IS A REALITY, AND GIVING CREDIT TO THE ISRAELIS FOR WHAT THEY HAD ACCOMPLISHED IN TURNING THE DESERT INTO A FLOURISHING STATE, KEKKONEN ALSO ARGUED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD NOT LIVED UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND NOT REMAINED CONTENT WITH THE BORDERS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS. HE CONCURRED WITH DEAN ACHESON'S STATEMENT THAT HE COULD "UNDERSTAND THE MYSTICAL EMOTION OF THE JEWS TO RETURN TO PALESTINE,...BUT COULD NOT AGREE WITH IT," BECAUSE IT ENDANGERED THE INTERESTS OF ALL WESTERN POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. CSCE AND SALT: KEKKONEN CHARACTERIZED CSCE, SALT, AND MBFR AS EXAMPLES OF THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF 1973 TO EUROPE AND GLOBAL POLITICS. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT SETBACKS COULD OCCUR, THAT "A FROST COULD STILL DESTROY A PROMISING HARVEST." KEKKONEN LABELED SUCH WARNINGS AS CAUTION BASED ON EXPERIENCE, RATHER THAN A LACK OF CONFIDENCE.

5. "OSTPOLITIK": PRESIDENT KEKKONEN PRAISED CHANCELLOR BRANDT FOR HIS RECOGNITION OF THE "REALITY OF THE SITUATION" AND THE ENSUING "OSTPOLITIK" BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO KEKKONEN, PEACE IN EUROPE DEPENDS TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT ON GERMANY.

6. EUROPE: IN KEKKONEN'S VIEW, EUROPE IS MORE THAN JUST WESTERN EUROPE, MORE THAN THE EC. IN FACT, WHAT IS NEEDED, IN THE WORDS OF KEKKONEN, IS TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR A LASTING PEACE AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF DE GAULLE'S "EUROPE FROM THE ATLANTIC**TO THE URALS". KEKKONEN POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT NOT EVEN A UNITED EUROPE CAN DECIDE THE DESTINY OF THE REST OF THE WORLD.
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7. DETENTE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE: KEKKONEN CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF DETENTE, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE: A FERVENT HOPE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE GENEVA PEACE NEGOTIATIONS; AND CONCURRENCE WITH BREZHEV'S THOUGHT AT THE RECENT WPC IN MOSCOW THAT "THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE AS A WHOLE HAS IMPROVED AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES AND THE POLICY OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION HAS BROUGHT PERCEPTIBLE REAL

RESULTS".

8. COMMENT: KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE SPEECH WAS TIMED TO BE GIVEN AFTER MINISTER OF TRADE JANSSON HAD RETURNED FROM HIS HAT-IN-HAND TRIP TO KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS CURRYING FAVOR WITH THE ARABS. NEVERTHELESS, THE SPEECH, WHILE GIVING THE ISRAELIS SOME MEAGER KUDOS, MUST BE CONSIDERED MODERATELY PRO-ARAB AND WITHOUT QUESTION PRO-PALESTINIAN--HUMANE AND "SAFE".
KREHBIEL

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